



Quarterly

Planning and Project Implementation Update



April 2013

ABOUT THIS UPDATE

The purpose of the Chippewa Quarterly is to provide a summary of environmental analyses on the Chippewa National Forest. Issued quarterly, this is intended to complement other public involvement efforts initiated by the Forest Supervisor or District Rangers. Legal notices will continue to be published in the following local newspapers: Bemidji's *The Pioneer* for Forest Supervisor decisions; and Blackduck's *American*, Deer River's *Western Itasca Review*, and Walker's *The Pilot-Independent* for District Ranger decisions.

Projects are classified into one of three categories:

Environmental Analyses in Progress

This category includes projects in which public input is being or is about to be solicited. It also includes those projects that are currently under study or analysis. Environmental analyses include Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), and Categorical Exclusions (CE).

Completed Decision Documents

These projects have culminated in the preparation of completed environmental analyses and decision documents since the last issue. These decision documents include Records of Decision (ROD), Decision Notices (DN), and Decision Memos (DM). Findings of No Significant Impacts will be included in this category, also.

Proposals Cancelled or On Hold

Some projects initiated and published in this Quarterly may be cancelled or deferred for various reasons. These projects may or may not be picked up for completion at a later date.

HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED

Read through the list of proposed projects. If you want to provide site-specific comments on a project, get more information, or be placed on the project mailing list, write or call the contact person listed for that project. It is only through site-specific input that we can be responsive to and incorporate your concerns into project development.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Appeal Period - The 45-day period after publication of a decision in which an appeal can be filed.

Categorical Exclusion (CE) - A category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required.

Comment Period - The time allowed for interested persons to provide comments to a Responsible Official on a proposed action.

Decision Memo (DM) - A concise written record of the responsible official's decision to implement an action that has been categorically excluded from documentation.

Decision Notice (DN) - A concise written record of the responsible official's decision based on an environmental assessment and a finding of no significant impact.

Environmental Assessment (EA) - A document that presents issues and concerns important to a project, alternate means of accomplishing a project, and environmental effects of each of those alternatives.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - This document is required for proposed actions that may have significant effects on the human environment. The contents are similar to an environmental assessment, and it includes some additional sections.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) - A document prepared by a federal agency presenting the reasons why an action, not otherwise excluded, will not have a significant effect on the human environment and for which an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The procedural guide for the decision making process for site-specific projects.

Proposed Action - A proposal made by the Forest Service to authorize, recommend, or implement an action on National Forest System lands to meet a specific purpose and need which is subject to public notice comment provisions.

Scoping - Includes internal and public involvement to determine the range of issues to be addressed. Scoping aids in the development of alternatives for a proposed action.

Significance - As used in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), requires consideration of both context and intensity.

Anticipated "Walk-in" Business

Requests from the public occasionally necessitate analyses be completed with a short turn-around. This may mean that decisions are made without prior announcement in this Update. As these projects come up for consideration however, they will continue to be announced by legal notices in newspapers. Examples of walk-in requests include special use roads and utility rights-of-way. Scoping efforts for these requests will be conducted as applicable.

Forest Policy on Distributing Documents

Draft and Final Environmental Assessments and Decision Notices/FONSI's and Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements and Records of Decision are routinely mailed to individuals who provide comments on a project. We do not routinely distribute biological assessments or biological evaluations with the previously listed documents. If you wish to receive biological evaluations or biological assessments for NEPA projects, please contact the district and/or Supervisor's Office NEPA Coordinators.

Privacy on Comments Received

Comments received in response to solicitation as part of the NEPA process, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on a proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within stated number of days.



Schedule of Proposed Action (SOPA)

04/01/2013 to 06/30/2013

Chippewa National Forest

This report contains the best available information at the time of publication. Questions may be directed to the Project Contact.

| Project Name | Project Purpose | Planning Status | Decision | Expected Implementation | Project Contact |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|-------------------------|-----------------|
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|-------------------------|-----------------|

| Chippewa National Forest, Forestwide (excluding Projects occurring in more than one Forest) | | | | R9 - Eastern Region | |
|---|---|--|------------------|---------------------|--|
| Blowdown Restoration Project EA | - Forest products - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Fuels management | In Progress: Scoping Start 11/14/2012 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 04/2013 | Expected:06/2013 | 08/2013 | Sharon Klinkhammer 218-335-8660 sklinkhammer@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: July 2012 wind storm resulted in approximately 20,000 acres of moderate/severe blowdown. Project focuses on ecosystem restoration, some salvage, reforestation activities, and landscape level burns. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=40389 | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Chippewa National Forest All Units. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Cass, Itasca. Damage area is roughly 10 miles by 40 miles through the middle of the Forest and on either side of Hwy 2. | | | | |

| Chippewa National Forest, Occurring in more than one District (excluding Forestwide) | | | | R9 - Eastern Region | |
|--|---|---------|-----|---------------------|---|
| Ash Diversification Collaboration Project EA | - Vegetation management (other than forest products) | On Hold | N/A | N/A | Gary Swanson 218-335-8652 ghswanson@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Stands of ash with low species diversity were identified on NF lands and adjacent ownerships. Introduction of other species through harvest and regeneration, using a collaborative approach, is planned to minimize future effects of emerald ash borer. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=38753 | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District, Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. Deer River and Walker District. | | | | |

| Chippewa National Forest | Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) | R9 - Eastern Region |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------|
|--------------------------|--|---------------------|

| Project Name | Project Purpose | Planning Status | Decision | Expected Implementation | Project Contact |
|--|---|--|------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Chippewa National Forest Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) | | | | | R9 - Eastern Region |
| Farley Vegetation Management Project EA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Forest products - Fuels management - Road management | In Progress: Scoping Start 03/20/2012 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 05/2013 | Expected:08/2013 | 09/2013 | Deborah Overton 218-547-1044 doverton@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Timber harvesting, reforestation, recreation, prescribed fire, wildlife management | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=37104 | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami, Itasca. LEGAL - T146N R28-29W, T147N R27-30W, T148N R28-30W, and T149N R29-30W. Bounded on the north by Skimmerhorn Lake, on the south by Lake Winnie, on the east by Round Lake and on the west by Decker Lake. | | | | |
| Knutson Dam Improvement Project EA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Watershed management | Developing Proposal Est. Scoping Start 05/2013 | Expected:01/2014 | 06/2014 | Eric Raitanen 218-246-3475 ericraitanen@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Project focuses on structural maintenance needs of current dam structure in order to prevent possible structural failure. Improvements would allow for passage of aquatic organisms. | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. Dam in located on the Mississippi River at the outlet of Cass Lake. | | | | |
| Rabideau CCC Camp Management EA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation management - Special use management - Facility management | In Progress: Scoping Start 03/13/2011 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 02/2013 | Expected:03/2013 | 05/2013 | Ann Long-Voelkner 218-835-3116 alongvoelkner@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Updates to the use and management of the CCC camp, including seasons of use, maintained buildings, and non-structural land uses. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=33624 | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Beltrami. LEGAL - T148N R31N Sections 12 and 13, T148N R30W Section 18. Rabideau CCC Camp. | | | | |

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| Chippewa National Forest | Blackduck Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) | | | R9 - Eastern Region | |
| West Winnie Boat Launch Reconfiguration EA | - Recreation management - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants - Facility management | On Hold | N/A | N/A | Cory Mlodik 218-835-3119 corymlodik@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: The purpose of the West Winnie Boat Launch Project is to reduce the risk of transporting the aquatic invasive faucet snail (Bithynia tentaculata) to other bodies of water on boats/trailers. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=38945 | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Blackduck Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - TWP 146N RNG 29W SEC 35. End of Winnie Campground Road (FR 2163) on West Shore of Lake Winnibigoshish. | | | | |

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|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|--------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Chippewa National Forest | Deer River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) | | | R9 - Eastern Region | |
| David Road Use CE | - Special use management | Completed | Actual: 02/26/2013 | 03/2013 | Barb Knight 218-246-2362 bknight@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Use permit for road use on Forest Service land. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41035 | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T59N R26W S31. T59N R26W S31. | | | | |
| Deer River Tree Cooler EA | - Vegetation management (other than forest products) - Facility management | Completed | Actual: 03/28/2013 | 05/2013 | Gregory Van Orsow 218-246-3483 gvanorsow@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Build a tree cooler on the Chippewa National Forest at the Deer River administrative site. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=38508 | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. Deer River administrative site, 1037 Division Street, Deer River, MN. | | | | |
| Erik road permit CE | - Special use management | Completed | Actual: 02/26/2013 | 03/2013 | Barb Knight 218-246-2362 bknight@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Special use permit for use of road on Forest Service land. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41030 | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. T145 N R26 W S 21. | | | | |

| Project Name | Project Purpose | Planning Status | Decision | Expected Implementation | Project Contact |
|---|--|---|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Chippewa National Forest Deer River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) | | | | | R9 - Eastern Region |
| Jessie Lake Pit Expansion CE | - Minerals and Geology | In Progress: Scoping Start 02/21/2013 Est. 215 Comment Period Legal Notice 04/2013 | Expected:05/2013 | 06/2013 | Barb Knight 218-246-2362 bknight@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Expand the gravel pit area and restore/reclaim exhausted pit areas. | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T14N R25W Sec4. Off Hwy 6, 2 1/2 miles south of Jesse Lake. | | | | |
| Mario Road Use CE | - Special use management | Completed | Actual: 02/26/2013 | 03/2013 | Barb Knight 218-246-2362 bknight@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Use permit for road use on Forest Service land. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41036 | | | | |
| Michael Road Permit CE | - Special use management | Completed | Actual: 02/26/2013 | 03/2013 | Barb Knight 218-246-2362 bknight@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Use permit for road use on Forest Service land. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41033 | | | | |
| Pine Grove Lodge House/Garage/Worksho CE | - Special use management | Cancelled | N/A | N/A | Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: This proposal is to build a structure apx 47'x69' which will be a house/garage/workshop located within the permitted boundaries of the Pine Grove Lodge. | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - Section 6, T147N R26W. Itasca County, Minnesota , Pine Grove Lodge. | | | | |

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| Chippewa National Forest Deer River Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) | | | | | R9 - Eastern Region |
| Ronald Road Use CE | - Special use management | Completed | Actual: 02/26/2013 | 03/2013 | Barb Knight 218-246-2362 bknight@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Use permit for road use on Forest Service land. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41039 | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - S1&2 T148N R25W. T148N R25W S1&2. | | | | |
| Ruby Lake Camp storage CE | - Special use management | Completed | Actual: 12/21/2012 | 11/2012 | Mary Humenberger 218-246-3455 mhumenberger@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: proposed roof-only covered storage on the east side of building #4 (supply/shop) | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=39571 | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - Section 8, T58N. Ruby Lake Camp building #4. | | | | |
| SE Jessie Road Use CE | - Special use management | Completed | Actual: 02/26/2013 | 03/2013 | Barb Knight 218-246-2362 bknight@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Use permit for road use on Forest Service land. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41037 | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - S12 T147N R25W. T147N R25W S12. | | | | |
| Suomi Hills Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Area Trail Project EA | - Recreation management | On Hold | N/A | N/A | Ann Long-Voelkner 218-335-8616 alongvoelkner@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Conversion of low standard roads to trails, new trail construction, building trail shelters, installation of gates/berms on system roads/unclassified roads, and parking areas within the Soumi Hills SPNM Area. | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Deer River Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Itasca. LEGAL - T 58 N, R 26 W. The project area is located west of MN Highway 38; south and east of Itasca County Road 48; and north of the forest boundary. The project is within the designated Soumi Hills SPNM Area as defined by. | | | | |

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| Chippewa National Forest | Walker Ranger District (excluding Projects occurring in more than one District) | | | | R9 - Eastern Region |
| Bud Lake Woodcock Habitat Improvement Project CE | - Wildlife, Fish, Rare plants | Completed | Actual: 02/20/2013 02/20/2013 | 02/2013 | Cory Mlodik 307-276-5808 corymlodik@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Maintenance and improvement of 12 acres of woodcock habitat in the Portage Creek watershed. This includes shearing decadent alder and allowing it to regenerate. This project would be completed in winter under frozen ground conditions. | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=39575 | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. South of Hwy 2 and north of Bud Lake on the north end of the Walker RD. | | | | |
| White Rock Lane CE *NEW LISTING* | - Road management | Completed | Actual: 03/18/2013 | 03/2013 | Steven Frick 218-547-6002 ext 112 scfrick@fs.fed.us |
| | Description: Issue SUP for private road across NFS lands | | | | |
| | Web Link: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=41196 | | | | |
| | Location: UNIT - Walker Ranger District. STATE - Minnesota. COUNTY - Cass. LEGAL - Cass County, T141N, R29W Section 1, Gov't. Lot 2. existing road located west of Cass County Road 39 and east of Leech Lake. | | | | |

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